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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/789,065	02/27/2004	Moses A. Lipshaw	110651-022	7359

27111 7590 10/19/2006

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EXAMINER

PETRIK, KARI KRISTEN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3772

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

11

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/789,065	LIPSHAW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kari Petrik	3772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-17 and 19-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-42 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-17 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/18/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification does not enable one skilled in the art to provide straps that are “juxtaposed to pass between one another” and have “overlapping engagement” of the opposing bands. Page 11 lines 15-25 disclose that band 20 is wrapped into space 12 so that the proximal edge of band 20 is in juxtaposition with the distal edge of band 21; and the distal edge of band 20 is juxtaposed with the proximal edge of band 23. The specification does not enable one skilled in the art to provide the juxtaposed

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straps of claim 1, which pass between each other and are side by side, in which the wrapping engagement involve overlapping engagement of opposing straps.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 23 recites the limitation "the elastic material". Claim 15 recites an "inelastic material" but not an elastic material. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 15-17, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moore (US Patent 3,831,467).
8. Regarding claim 15, Moore discloses a flat knee brace comprising a flat central and lateral regions (sheet 12) comprising of flannel and durable fabric (column 1 line 65-column 2 line 2), which are substantially inelastic material. The brace has a plurality of bands (28) extending from the opposite lateral regions that are juxtaposed to pass between one another (see Figure 7), wherein each band has one or both edges comprising a curve or indentation (tapered ends of straps 28) and a fastener for detachable securing to the opposite lateral region.

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9. Regarding claim 16, the central and lateral regions are biased into a three-dimensional curvature to fit the body part (Figure 1).

10. Regarding claim 17, the opposing bands extend substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the central region, and the proximal and distal edges are substantially parallel to each other (Figure 4).

11. Regarding claim 20, the bands are spaced-apart from each other and extend from opposite lateral regions.

12. Regarding claim 21, each of the bands extend from the lateral region at an angle (90 degrees) with respect to a longitudinal axis of the central region.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore in view of Carpenter et al (US Patent 6,338,723).

Moore substantially discloses the claimed invention as applied to claim 15, but does not disclose indicia printed on the garment and a card comprising a scale for measuring the separation of the indicia. Carpenter et al teach that it is known to provide a compression garment comprising a system for measuring compression including indicia printed on the outer surface for measuring the stretch of the material and a card having a scale to measure the amount of compression provided by the garment (column 3, lines 40-55). It would have been obvious to

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one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the compression garment disclosed by Moore having indicia and a scale card, as taught by Carpenter et al, for the purpose of accurately measuring the amount of compression being applied to the body.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 15-17 and 19-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kari Petrik whose telephone number is 571-272-8057. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and every other Friday, 7-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco can be reached on 571-272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kari Petrik
Examiner
Art Unit 3772

KKP

JP Brauer
SPE AU 3772
10/15/06